

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 44 – 59 are pending. Claims 19-21, 23-25, 27 and 42-43 have been cancelled. New claims 44 – 59 have been added to more clearly describe the present Invention. Basis for these claims can be found in the Specification as originally filed and in original claims 1 – 44. No new matter has been added by the present amendment.

THE 35 U.S.C. §112, SECOND PARAGRAPH REJECTIONS

The Examiner has rejected claims 19 – 21, 23, 24, 27, 42 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants have cancelled claims 19 – 21, 23, 24, 27, 42 and 43 and added new claims 44 – 59. Accordingly, Applicants believe that the present rejection is now moot.

THE 35 U.S.C. §102 REJECTIONS

The Examiner has rejected claim 19, 21, 23, 24, 42 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,716,777 or WO 96/00235 in light of Smitz et al..

Applicants have cancelled claims 19, 21, 23, 24, 42 and 43 and added new claims 44 – 59. Accordingly, Applicants believe that the present rejection is now moot.

THE 35 U.S.C. §103 REJECTIONS

The Examiner has rejected claims 19, 21, 23, 24, 27, 42 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Smitz et al. or U.S. Patent No. 5,693,534 in combination with U.S. Patent No. 5,716,777 or WO 96/00235.

Applicants have cancelled claims 19, 21, 23, 24, 27, 42 and 43 and added new claims 44 – 59. Accordingly, Applicants believe that the present rejection is now moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and issue. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees in connection with

this application and to credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 14-1447. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if there are any questions concerning this amendment or application.

Respectfully submitted,

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